

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 2-8, 10, 11 and 15-18 are now present in the application. Claims 2, 3, 5, 8 and 10 have been amended. Claims 2, 5 and 8 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5 and 6 are allowed and dependent claims 3 and 9-16 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, claims 2 and 8 have been amended to incorporate allowable dependent claims 12 and 9, respectively, as discussed hereinbelow.

Drawings Objections

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). In view of the foregoing amendments to claims 2, 5 and 8, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 4, 7, 8, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dowd, U.S. Patent No. 1,697,591. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

As mentioned, claims 2 and 8 have been amended to incorporate allowable dependent claims 12 and 9, respectively. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 2 and 8 and their dependent claims 4, 7, 17 and 18 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Application No. 10/537,311
Amendment dated July 10, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 10, 2007

Docket No.: 0630-2329PUS1

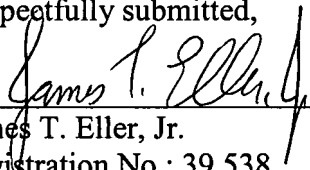
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 10, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By


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